

5                   1.       An apparatus for physical detection and tracking of devices on a computer network, the apparatus comprising:

                  a processor, for executing executable data structures;

                  a memory device operably connected to the processor for storing the executable data structures and associated operational data structures, the executable and operational data  
10 structures comprising:

                  a reporting module configured to query a network infrastructure device and obtain end point connection information corresponding to a first network device; and

                  a correlation module configured to associate the end point connection information corresponding to the first network device to a location identifier corresponding to a physical  
15 location.

                  2.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the end point connection information comprises a port number of the network infrastructure device.

20                   3.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises a communication module configured to transmit the end point connection information to a central database.

                  4.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an  
25 update module configured to detect a change of end point connection information corresponding to the first network device.



5           5.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect a second network device local to the first network device and obtain end point connection information corresponding to the second network device.

10           6.       The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a monitoring module configured to receive end point connection information from the reporting module.

15           7.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the correlation module further comprises a device recognition module configured to identify the nomenclature of the first network device based on product recognition records.

20           8.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the first network device.

          9.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to a second network device.

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10. An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable memory containing data structures for programming a computer, the data structures comprising:

a reporting module configured to query a network infrastructure device and obtain end point connection information corresponding to a first network device; and

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a correlation module configured to associate the end point connection information corresponding to the first network device to a location identifier corresponding to a physical location.

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11. The article of claim 10, wherein the end point connection information comprises a port number of the network infrastructure device.

12. The article of claim 11, wherein the reporting module further comprises a communication module configured to transmit the end point connection information to a central database.

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13. The article of claim 12, wherein the reporting module further comprises an update module configured to detect a change of end point connection information corresponding to the first network device.

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14. The article of claim 13, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect a second network device local to the first network device and obtain end point connection information corresponding to the second network device.

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15. The article of claim 14, further comprising a monitoring module configured to receive end point connection information from the reporting module.

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16. The article of claim 15, wherein the correlation module further comprises a device recognition module configured to identify the nomenclature of the first network device based on product recognition records.

17. The article of claim 16, wherein the inventory module is further configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the first network device.

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18. The article of claim 16, wherein the inventory module is further configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the second network device.

5                    19.    A method for physical detection and tracking of devices on a computer network, the method comprising:

                     querying a network infrastructure device to obtain end point connection information corresponding to a first network device;

                     reporting the end point connection information to a central database; and

10                    associating the end point connection information corresponding to the first network device to a location identifier corresponding to a physical location.

                     20.    The method of claim 19, wherein the end point connection information comprises a port number of the network infrastructure device.

15                    21.    The method of claim 19, wherein the central database comprises device records storing end point connection information corresponding to network devices.

                     22.    The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting a change of end point connection information corresponding to the first network device and updating the central database to reflect the change.

20                    23.    The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting a second network device local to the first network device and obtaining end point connection information corresponding to the second network device.

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24. The method of claim 19, further comprising identifying a nomenclature of the first network device based on product recognition records stored in the central database.

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25. The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the first network device.

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26. The method of claim 25, further comprising transmitting the software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the first network device to the central database.

27. The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting software and hardware configuration information corresponding to a second network device.